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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 11, and 17-20 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Claim Objections

Claims 18-20 are objected to for depending on claim 16.

Claims 18-20 are amended to depend on claim 17.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. Claims 1-10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Claim 1 is rejected for not specifying the origin of the inverting and non-inverting signals. Claim 3 is rejected for not specifying the origin and destination of the inverting and non-inverting signals. Claim 7 is rejected because it is unclear how the inverting and non-inverting signals relate to the rest of the claim.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 are amended to clarify that the source is to send the signals to the sink, so claims 1, 3, and 7 comply with 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 15 is rejected because the specification does not clarify how the source and sink are on a chip without floorplans. Applicant respectfully traverse this grounds for rejection because Figures 2A and 2B illustrate a floorplanned chip while, in contrast, Figures 3A and 3B illustrate a chip without floorplans. Figure 3A is described, e.g., at page 14, lines 9-10: "Figure 3A depicts a block diagram of an example chip 300 without floorplans before preconditioning." Further, page 14, line 22 through page 16, line 21 show EDIF statements illustrating the design of the example chip 300 without floorplans.

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Figure 3B is described, e.g., at page 16, lines 22-23: "Figure 3B depicts a block diagram of an example chip 370 without floorplans after preconditioning." Further, page 17, line 5 through page 20, line 1 show EDIF statements illustrating the design of the example chip 370 without floorplans.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-6 are allowable if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections.

35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2004/0107408 to Sano. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano in view of US 6,205,572 to Dupenloup.

Independent claims 7, 11, and 17 are amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 1, so claims 7, 11, and 17 are also allowable. Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-16, and 18-20 are dependent on claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 are patentable for the reasons argued above, plus the elements in the claims.

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Conclusion

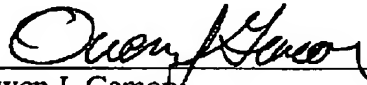
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (651-645-7135) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representative,



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents 571-273-8300, on this 3rd day of January, 2006.

Owen J. Gamon
Name


Signature